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of its Tudor revival (ch. XVI.)—these and many other important matters remain impressed upon the reviewer's mind.

On the side of heuristic much has been done. A surprising amount of new material has been turned up in the Record Office (Sir Harris Nicolas used only the British Museum MSS.), and the author's unique mastery of the still disordered mass of council material is abundantly evident. Some important documents are printed for the first time in the appendixes. Two notable points in conclusion. Professor Baldwin has wonderfully maintained the true researcher's humility and obedience to the lead of the documents. Escaping that "prevailing rigidity of thought" which has stultified so much labor in English history, he has kept religiously from "cynicism or a feeling of the superiority of a later age". No less remarkable is his self-effacement. Far from parading discoveries and new theses, such things are introduced so quietly and with such generous recognition of every bit of worth in previous work that the reader is in danger of underrating the great things that have been done. A rare union is here of critical insight, self-control, and patient industry, and it calls for very high praise.

ALBERT BEEBE WHITE.

England in the Later Middle Ages. By KENNETH H. VICKERS, M.A., Professor of Modern History, University of Durham. [A History of England, edited by Charles Oman, vol. III.] (London: Methuen and Company. 1913. Pp. xv, 542.)

THIS volume shows careful reading and accurate scholarship; nearly every statement is based on the sources, references to which are given in foot-notes, sometimes five or six on a page.

There is a very full bibliography of the sources, but a few brief comments on the contents and value of these documents, or of some of them, would have increased the usefulness of the list, and, indeed, are due from a scholar to his readers. A well-constructed index and four very clear maps are added. Yet we must confess to a feeling of disappointment, due to the wholly inadequate treatment of the national life and spirit of the period, and the failure to trace the movement of the history along the more important lines of its progress. Such subjects as the Church, and ecclesiastical relations; the evolution of Parliament, its constitution and powers; the growth of the towns; the commercial and industrial life; the growing importance of the Commons in the financial, political, and social life of the nation; the variations of English feudalism; and the changes in the conception and powers of the monarchy, are wholly neglected, or very inadequately treated.

Professor Vickers seems to be under the old impression that accounts of kings and their wars tell the history of a nation. This brings about a lack of proportion which is one of the most serious defects of the book. For example, while about sixty pages are devoted to the twenty

years' reign of the weak and inefficient Edward II., only eighty are given to the thirty-five years of Edward I., and only a hundred to the fifty years of Edward III. Indeed, less than half the book is given to the first half of the period, which is pre-eminently the more important. Only the slightest reference is made to the Parliament of 1295, either in its logical relation to the Parliament of 1265 and to the earlier Parliaments of Edward I., or in its historical setting, after the uprising of the Scots, their alliance with the French, the consequent French war, and the revolts in Wales. These threatening dangers, and not merely financial difficulties, gave the real force to Edward's appeal to the patriotism and united support of all classes of his English subjects. The author treats of this and the *Confirmatio Chartarum* (which he calls simply, "a re-issue of *Magna Carta*"), with the consequent legislation, in a brief chapter entitled "*Internal Complications—1279-1306*"!

His comparison of Edward's Model Parliament with Philip's summoning of the "*Estates General*" (as he calls it), in 1302, shows his failure to realize the significance of Edward's work as the consummation of a steadily advancing policy carrying out what had been in process of development during the whole course of the century. He misses the true historical significance of the Parliament of 1295 and the *Confirmatio* of 1297, as the virtual re-enactment of the omitted articles 14 and 12, in the Great Charter of 1215. His view of the acquisition of power by the House of Commons is seen in his statement: "Unfortunately for the Kingdom the control of taxation was being captured by the House of Commons, which was quite ignorant of finance!"

The brief and misleading reference to Wycliffe's Bible would be made more accurate and definite, without requiring additional space, by saying that, although it could not be proved that Wycliffe himself translated more than the four Gospels, and perhaps the rest of the New Testament and part of the Apocrypha, yet, undoubtedly, the rest of the work was done by his followers under his inspiration and direction.

The story of Jeanne d'Arc, to which he devotes only four pages, lacks psychological and even historical appreciation, and consequently fails to explain her wonderful success.

Battles are vividly portrayed, but the dreary tale of the Hundred Years' War, especially in its later period, is drawn to a length out of all proportion to its historical or even military importance. Professor Vickers seems to be governed in his proportions by the amount of his material rather than by the importance of the subject. The psychology of the war and its moral results, however, are briefly though well summed up in the last two pages of chapter XXII.

In the treatment of the fifteenth century, long quotations from early English documents are introduced into the text in their original English. In most cases the literal form has no historical significance, and it would have been better to use modern English. There is, in general, an unfortunate arrangement of topics, which, with the frequent failure to

follow the chronological order of events, causes confusion and repetitions in many places; especially in the reigns of Richard II. and Henry VI.

There is also a vagueness and lack of definiteness of statement which is unnecessary and annoying. Opportunities are frequently missed where the addition of a word or two, or even a slight change in the phraseology, would bring out clearly an important fact in a concrete and definite form.

CHARLES L. WELLS.

Genesis of Lancaster or the Three Reigns of Edward II., Edward III., Richard II., 1307-1399. By Sir JAMES H. RAMSAY of Bamff, LL.D., Litt.D. In two volumes. (Oxford: The Clarendon Press. 1913. Pp. xxxi, 495; xv, 446.)

THE world of historical scholarship will heartily congratulate Sir James Ramsay upon the completion of the fifth and last installment of a work upon which he has been laboring for over forty years. "My grown-up children do not remember the time when it was not in progress", he writes, in a preface of pardonable pride, in which he views the past from the pinnacle of years. The same method, already made familiar in other volumes, is here adhered to—the aim to give a picture of the times, events, and people with special treatment of military matters, finance, and statistics, amply buttressed with references. Emphasis is laid upon the fact that the work is a general history, "because for internal affairs the *Constitutional History* of Bishop Stubbs stands alone". This dualism has caused a structural weakness throughout the work which Sir James's method has not overcome. For a *general* history of England during so important a period as the Hundred Years' War the work is quantitatively too brief, and qualitatively defective. In his implicit reliance upon Stubbs and older writers than he, the author is unaware of the progress made in English constitutional history in these latter years. It is painfully evident that Sir James Ramsay is not abreast of modern scholarship. The history of the war is almost wholly written from English sources. For the French end of it—with the exception of Froissart, one of the poorest of sources—use is made of secondary works, like Coville's volume in Lavisse's *Histoire de France*. But the main reliance is put upon Sismondi, Martin, Longman, Milman, and Kitchin! Cardinal works are unhonored and uncited, like Déprez's *Les Préliminaires de la Guerre de Cent Ans*; Moisant's *Le Prince Noir en Aquitaine*; Luce's *La Jacquerie* and *Du Guesclin*; Flammermont's notable article in the *Revue Historique* for 1879 upon the Jacquerie; Viard's studies upon the finances of the first Valois; Delachenal's *Le Règne de Charles V.*, besides many excellent articles in numerous French reviews. Even notable books or articles in English seem to be unknown, like Burrows's *The Family of Brocas of Beaure-*